

*Dearest Yola*

Julia Gray

Dearest Yola,

You make me laugh. Especially when you “stack it,” crash into nonexistent objects, find holes in floors with spectacular tumbling ability, when stressed run around like a headless chicken, wake up like a polar bear with a tooth ache, laugh so loud that my ears ring, walk from Salelologa to the markets with your skirt tucked into your undies, get eaten by small fishes that are related to piranha, and turn into a vampire when people make mistakes while we perform. Yes, all of these things would be sadly missed if you were normal.

On a serious note, I am first blood, director of your artistic abilities and ultimately your OLDER SISTER. Please learn to accept your lot in life as an extension of me.

Love your best sister in the whole world,

Julia

PS: Where is the cup of tea that I asked for an hour ago?

Thanks for proofreading this letter.

I love you.

JULIA GRAY is the director of Surnameke Pacific Island Performance, based in Darwin, Australia. She is of Papua New Guinean and Australian heritage and has been exposed to the impact of two separate and distinctive cultures. Julia's Papua New Guinean family is from the Kairuku district of the Central Province of Papua New Guinea. Since graduating from Adelaide University, she has spent her professional life as a freelance dancer and choreographer, finding varied ways to express her heritage. Julia has worked with Tracks Dance Theatre Performance, Drum Drum, Cultural Village of the Northern Territory, and the Palmerston Festival as cultural dance coordinator, choreographer, singer and dancer. She has also collaborated with international and community cultural dance groups in Darwin.